

Scripture Background

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus brings happiness and healing to Peter's mother-in-law and to the many sick people who crowd around her door. Jesus heals many people in Capernaum and then moves on to teach and heal in other towns. *Promise* connects the Gospel reading to the sacraments this week, especially the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

Share Experiences

Check off the boxes as you complete each part of the lesson.

- Pray together** "Jesus, thank you for our family. Thank you for neighbors and friends too. Help us learn how to be more helpful and loving to everyone. Amen."
- Cover Activity • Draw a way you can help (page 1)** Invite your child to describe the helping situations. Read the directions and have your child draw a way to help the mom in the center.
- Story • Ben and the Sad Face (page 2)** Have your child turn to page 2. Read the title aloud, and point out the sad face. **Ask:** What are some other feelings this face might be showing? Help your child fold back the page from top to bottom so only the first column shows. Read the story one column at a time, inviting your child to add the words the drawings represent. Read the question aloud. *Ben's parents showed him that they care about him. They joked with him, which helped him to smile.* **Ask:** Why did this work? **Ask:** Since Ben's parents helped him, do you think Ben will pass it on and help someone at school?

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Heals** Read aloud the Gospel to your child.

After they left the synagogue, Jesus and his friends went to the home of Simon Peter and Andrew. Simon Peter's mother-in-law was sick with a fever. Jesus went to her, took her hand, and helped her up. Her fever was gone! She got up and waited on them.

That evening, people brought all the sick and those who were bothered by bad spirits. The whole town gathered at the door. Jesus cured many of the sick people and told many bad

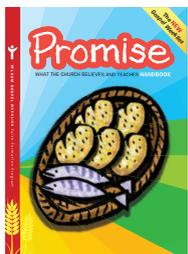
spirits to leave people.

Jesus got up very early the next morning. He went to a quiet place to pray. Simon Peter and the others went looking for Jesus. When they found him, Simon Peter said, "Everyone is looking for you." Jesus said, "Let us move on to other towns so that I may preach there also. This is why I have come."

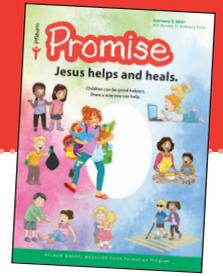
Jesus left Capernaum and went to other towns. He taught in their synagogues and healed people all over Galilee.

Ask: How did Jesus help? Why did Jesus leave to go to other towns? *Jesus wants to tell and show everyone the Good News of God's love.*

- Activity • How does Jesus help? (pages 3-4)** Help your child separate the page and make the folds. Then read the Gospel story together.



- Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 10. Remind your child about the story of Noah. You may wish to read the story from a children's Bible or picture book. Emphasize that God took care of Noah and his family because Noah believed and trusted God. (This might be a good time to assure your child that floods and other natural disasters aren't punishments from God. God didn't say there would never be another flood but that no flood would ever again destroy the whole world. God cares about all creatures and wants everyone to be saved. Even if people die through a natural disaster, God will bring those who are



faithful to him into forever happiness in Heaven.)

Read aloud the title on page 10. Read aloud the first three lines. Assist as needed with the activity. **Answer:** *I care.* **Ask:** *What are some examples of how God cares for people, animals, and the earth? Challenge your child to come up with one example for each band of the rainbow.*

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Promise, page 2.

Live the Gospel

- ❑ **Word of the Week • anoint (page 2)** Help your child find the word *anoint* on page 2. Share this definition: *To anoint means to bless a person with oil to show that he or she is special to God.*
- ❑ **Optional Activity • Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick** Explain that a special way our Church shows God's care and our care for the sick is through the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. This sacrament gives special grace to Christians who are sick. Invite your child to imagine a person who is sick in the hospital. You might role play and act this out together. One person can pretend to be the sick person who receives the blessing, another can be the **Priest**, and other family members can represent the family and friends who are present (**All**).

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Scripture Reading: Reread this Sunday's Gospel.

Priest: Loving God, through this holy anointing, come and comfort (*Name*) with your love and mercy.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Priest: Relieve the suffering of all who are sick. Assist all dedicated to the care of the sick. Give life and health to our (*brother/sister*).

Priest: (*pretends to anoint the sick person on the forehead and hands with blessed oil*) Through this holy anointing may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen. *Everyone says the Lord's Prayer together.*

(*Note that in the Anointing of the Sick, the sick person often receives Holy Communion.*)

- ❑ **Activity • Making Care Cards** Collect some drawing paper or card stock and crayons. **Ask:** Who do we know who is sick or very old? Make some cards together for them. You might print *Thinking of You* and *Praying for You* on a sheet of paper for your child to copy. Mail or deliver the cards this week.
- ❑ **Closing Prayer** "Thank you, Jesus, for loving us and taking care of us. Please bring comfort and healing to those who are sick, especially (*have your child name someone you know*). Help us to trust in your care for us. Amen."



Parent Resources

For weekly videos, assessments, and more, scan this code or go to pflaumweeklies.com/family
 Visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings to read this Sunday's Scripture